



Date: July 18, 2006
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STAGE 1 FIRE RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT IN EASTERN MONTANA

Stage 1 fire restrictions will be in place on private, state and federal lands in Rosebud, Carter, Custer, Dawson, Rosebud, McCone, Richland, Garfield, and Prairie counties. The Ashland and Sioux Ranger Districts of the Custer National Forest, the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, the Bureau of Land Management and Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Effective Friday at 1 AM on July 21, 2006. The Custer National Forest, Ashland Ranger District and Powder River County are already in Stage 1 restrictions. The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Northern Cheyenne Agency has implemented Stage 2 fire restrictions. Fallon county will implement Stage 1 restrictions on July 29, 2006 effective 1 AM. Wibaux county will implement Stage 1 restrictions effective July 28, 2006 at 1 AM.

Stage 1 fire restrictions prohibit fires except within developed recreation sites and smoking is allowed only in areas cleared of flammable materials. Fires fueled solely by liquid petroleum or LPG, or other activities for which there is a permit or written authorization are exempt from these restrictions.

An exemption does not absolve an individual or organization from liability or responsibility for any fire started by the exempted activity.

All counties in southeastern Montana are currently experiencing increased fire activity. Randy Sanders, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Fire Program Manager, stated "There are several large fires in the area that are under

management by an Incident Management Team. The fires are resistant to control efforts, daytime temperatures are in the high 90's, relative humidity is very low, winds are gusty and erratic resulting in extreme fire behavior.”

Please take extra caution when working and recreating outdoors, help us prevent wildland fire starts. Anyone who causes a wildland fire intentionally or through negligence may be held accountable for damage and suppression costs.

In areas not in Stage 1 restrictions, a permit may be required for open burning other than campfires. Additional restrictions may also exist in certain areas. Before burning such things as slash piles, ditches, or fields, please contact your local fire department or sheriff's office for information and to obtain any necessary permits.

For more information about fire prevention, please contact the Custer National Forest, Ashland Ranger District at 406-784-2344 or the Sioux Ranger District at 605-797-4432; Bureau of Land Management at 406-233-2900; Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation at 406-232-2034; Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Region 7 at 406-234-0900; Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge at 406-538-8706; or your local fire department or sheriff's office.

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